

REMARKS

Claims 1-3 and 5-12 are pending in this application. Non-elected claims 9-12 are withdrawn from consideration by the Examiner. By this Amendment, claims 1 and 5-12 are amended and claim 4 is canceled. Support for the amendments may be found, for example, in the original claims. No new matter is added.

In view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks, reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

I. Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102

A. '650 Publication

The Office Action rejects claims 1-3 and 6 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Japanese Publication No. 07-009650A ("650 publication"). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

By this Amendment, claim 1 is amended to incorporate the non-rejected subject matter of claim 4, and claim 6 is amended to include the same subject matter, which is similar to the subject matter deleted from non-rejected claims 7 and 8. Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection is rendered moot. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

B. Kauffman

The Office Action rejects claims 1, 3, 4, 6 and 7 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,530,856 to Kauffman et al. ("Kauffman"). By this Amendment, claim 4 is canceled, rendering its rejection moot. As to the remaining claims, Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

By this Amendment, claims 1 and 6 are amended to require a decorating sheeting comprising a transparent resin substrate sheet and a glossy layer, where "the back surface of the transparent resin substrate sheet and the decorating sheet have protrusions protruding

toward the back surface direction, the protrusions protruding in the positions corresponding to the high-gloss portions." Kauffman fails to disclose, expressly or inherently, such features. Rather, the decorative laminate (element 10) in Kauffman has a back surface that is flat and does not have any protrusions. Thus, Kauffman fails to disclose each and every element of claims 1 and 6.

Therefore, claims 1 and 6 are not anticipated by Kauffman. Claims 3, 4 and 7 variously depend from claims 1 and 6 and, thus, also are not anticipated by Kauffman. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

II. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103

A. Claims 1 and 5

The Office Action rejects claims 1 and 5 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as having been obvious over Japanese Publication No. 2001-047582A ("582 publication") in view of '650 publication. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

By this Amendment, claim 1 is amended to incorporate the non-rejected subject matter of claim 4. Claim 5 depends from claim 1 and, thus, also incorporates the non-rejected subject matter of claim 4. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection is rendered moot. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

B. Claim 8

The Office Action rejects claim 8 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as having been obvious over Kauffman in view of '650 publication. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

The deficiencies of Kauffman with respect to claim 6 are discussed above. '650 publication fails to cure the deficiencies of Kauffman with respect to claim 6. Claim 8 depends from claim 6 and, thus, requires all the limitations of claim 6. Thus, claim 8 would not have been rendered obvious by Kauffman and '650 publication. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

III. Rejoinder

Applicants respectfully request rejoinder of non-elected claims 9-12. This application is subject to unity of invention practice as set forth in PCT Rule 13. *See* MPEP §1893.03(d). Under unity of invention practice, claims 1, 6 and 9 share a common technical feature that defines a contribution over the prior art. By this Amendment, claims 1, 6 and 9 are amended to require that "the back surface of the transparent resin substrate sheet and the decorating sheet have protrusions corresponding to the high-gloss portions." For all the reasons discussed above with respect to claims 1 and 6, this feature defines a contribution over the prior art. Thus, unity of invention exists between the claims, rendering the Restriction Requirement improper.

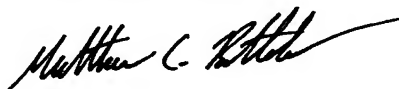
Accordingly, withdrawal of the Restriction Requirement and rejoinder of claims 9-12 are respectfully requested.

IV. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the claims are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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